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INFORMATION REPORT

BY CABLE

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Views on Significance of Shvernik's Visit
to Germany and Possible New Soviet Foreign
Policy toward the West

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- 25X1 1. [] Shvernik's visit to East Germany emphasized
25X1 the importance that the Soviets attach to the DDR and demonstrated
25X1 complete Soviet domination of the DDR. It also underlined Stalin's
belief that the current tensions will not develop into war in the
immediate future. Finally, Shvernik's visit emphasized the sovietization
of East Germany and its inclusion in the Soviet orbit, without
reference to the unity theme.
- 25X1 2. A shift in Soviet policy from pressure for a four-power conference
is noted. The Soviet aim now is to be the division of the Allies
among themselves. [] the past Soviet propaganda
line of "joint attack on the USSR" has made the Allies more unsure and
impatient in their demands on one another. Thus, the continuation
of the alliance becomes increasingly questionable. The current
difficulties between the U.S. and France constitute a threat to
EDC ratification, without any further Communist pressure. France
is already the weakest link in the alliance because of numerous
internal difficulties, and U.S. attention and favors to Germany are
increasing French anti-American sentiment. Stalin reportedly believes
that a serious Franco-American rupture is inevitable. Finally,
the abstention of England from the Western European community
increases the explosiveness of the situation. The growing estrangement
between European and American powers makes the West insecure and

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militarily weak; and this weakness will lead to a split, thereby increasing Soviet prospects.

3. Prior to the Party Congress, Soviet military circles reportedly favored a preventive war launched by the Communists because of their clear military superiority. However, Malenkov and the party leadership opposed the theory because of the West's economic superiority. Stalin's Bolshevik article appeared to resolve the conflict in Malenkov's favor and the military's political power was restrained by Stalin's concentrating propaganda on the Party. The long-popular theory that the West wants to attack the USSR is now being displaced by the belief that war will come sooner among the capitalistic countries than an attack on the USSR by those countries.

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